AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 8 with the following paragraph:

Figures 3A and 3C illustrate magnified views of the distal portion, identified in Figure 3B, of embodiments of a lead having a coated helical fixation arrangement in accordance with the present invention;

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 11 with the following paragraph:

Figure 3B illustrates a lead in accordance with the present invention, identifying the magnified portion illustrated in Figures 3A and 3C; and

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 11, line 8 with the following paragraph:

Referring to Figure 3A, the helical electrode 420 includes a polymer layer 425. The polymer layer 425 may be a coating or sheath, such as, for example, silicon tubing, a PTFE or ePTFE coating, or other layer adapted to reduce the tissue body response to the helical electrode 420. The polymer layer 425 thereby typically covers most or all of the exposed helical electrode 420, but may alternately include voids, apertures, or other discontinuities. The polymer layer 425 solicits less tissue inflammation and reduces the amount of fibrotic tissue around the implant site, reducing exit block development. As illustrated in Figure 3C, the lead 410 may also incorporate a polymeric coating 426 disposed on at least the fixation arrangement 420, and include a fluoropolymer coating or sleeve 425 disposed over the polymeric coating 426. The fluoropolymer coating or sleeve 425 may be manufactured from, for example, polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE) or ePTFE. The coating or sleeve 425 may include a steroid or other pharmacological eluting arrangement disposed on the fixation arrangement 420.